

## **Claims**

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of routing interLATA network traffic,  
comprising the steps of:

10 (a) receiving a plurality of digits at a first service switching  
point in a first virtual network in a first LATA;

(b) sending a query to a switching control point from the first  
service switching point; and

15 (c) when the plurality of digits result in a call that is an  
interLATA call, sending a response including a routing instruction to  
a hub service switching point.

2. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

(d) routing a network traffic to a hub service switching point in the first virtual network in the first LATA;

5 (e) when the call is to a facility in a second virtual network, transmitting an initial address message to the hub service switching point;

(f) sending a second query to the switching control point from the hub service switching point;

10 (g) receiving a second response from the switching control point; and

(h) routing the call over a tie line to a second hub service switching point in a second local access and transport area.

15 3. The method of claim 2, further including the steps of:

(i) sending a third query to the switching control point from the second hub service switching point;

(j) receiving a third response from the switching control point;

20 (k) routing the call to a second service switching point.

4. The method of claim 3, further including the steps of:

25 (l) routing the call from the second service switching point to a called party.

5. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

(d) routing a network traffic to a hub service switching point in the first virtual network in the first LATA;

5 (e) when the call is not to a facility in a second virtual network, combining the network traffic with a plurality of other network traffic.

6. The method of claim 5, further including the step of:

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(f) routing the network traffic to a point of presence associated with one of a plurality of inter-exchange carrier selections.

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7. A method of routing interLATA network traffic,  
comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) receiving a plurality of dialed digits at a first service  
switching point in a first virtual network;
- (b) sending a query to a service control point;
- (c) determining if the plurality of dialed digits result in a call  
to a facility in a second virtual network connected to the first virtual  
network by a tie line; and
- 10 (d) when the plurality of dialed digits result in the call to the  
facility in the second virtual network connected to the first virtual  
network by the tie line, routing the call to a hub service switching  
point in the second virtual network.

15 8. The method of claim 7, further including the steps of:

- (d) when the plurality of dialed digits does not result in the  
call to the facility in the second virtual network connected to the  
first virtual network by the tie line, routing the call to a hub service  
20 switching point in the first virtual network;
- (e) combining the call with a plurality of other calls to form a  
plurality of calls.

9. The method of claim 8, further including the step of:

(f) routing the plurality of calls to a point of presence associated with one of a plurality of inter-exchange carriers.

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10. The method of claim 7, wherein step (d) further includes the steps of:

(d1) routing the call first hub service switching point in the first LATA;

(d2) sending a second query to the switching control point;

(d3) receiving a response including a routing instruction to route the call over the tie line to the hub service switching point in the second LATA.

11. The method of claim 7, further including the steps of:

(e) sending a second query to the switching control point from the hub service switching point;

(f) receiving a response from the switching control point;

(g) routing the call to a second service switching point.

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12. A method of routing interLATA network traffic,  
comprising the steps of:

5 (a) receiving a plurality of digits at a first service switching  
point in a first virtual network;

(b) determining if the plurality of digits result in a call to a  
facility in a second virtual network connected to the first virtual  
network by a tie line; and

10 (c) when the plurality of digits result in the call to the facility  
in the second virtual network connected to the first virtual network  
by the tie line, routing the call over the tie line to the second virtual  
network.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (c) further  
15 includes the steps of:

(c1) routing the call to a first hub service switching  
point in the first virtual network;

20 (c2) routing the call over the tie line to a second hub  
service switching point in the second network.

14. The method of claim 13, further including the step of:

25 (c3) routing the call to a second service switching point  
in the second virtual network.

15. The method of claim 12, further including the steps of:

(d) when the plurality of digits do not result in the call to the facility in the second virtual network connected to the first  
5 virtual network by the tie line, determining the call is an interLATA call;

(e) when the call is the interLATA call, routing the call to a hub switching control point in the first virtual network.

10 16. The method of claim 15, further including the steps of:

(f) combining the call with a plurality of other call to form a plurality of calls;

(g) routing the plurality of calls to an interexchange carrier.

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